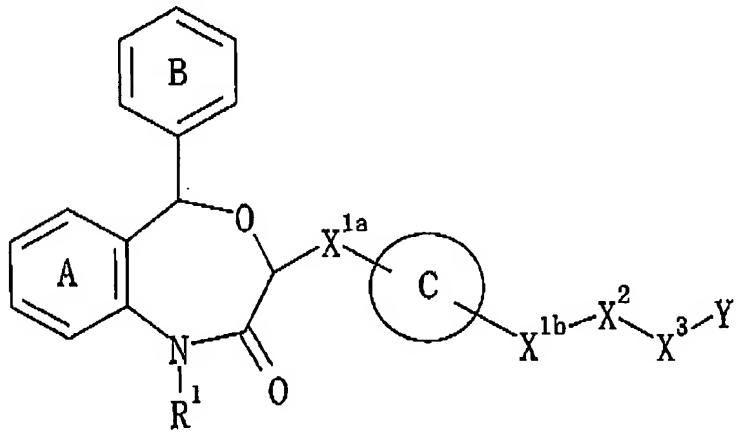
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Currently amended) A compound represented by the formula [1]:



wherein ring A and ring B each represent ~~an optionally substituted~~ a benzene ring which may have 1 to 3 substituents selected from the group consisting of halogen, a C_{1-4} alkyl group optionally substituted with halogen, a C_{1-4} alkoxy group optionally substituted with halogen, a hydroxyl group, a nitro group, or a cyano group, or the adjacent substituents of said substituents may be taken together to form a ring,

ring C represents a benzene ring or a 5- to 6-membered monocyclic aromatic ring comprising at least 1 to 3 heteroatoms selected from oxygen, sulfur and nitrogen,

wherein the aromatic ring may be substituted with 1 to 4 substituents selected from the group consisting of (i) a carboxyl group optionally esterified with an optionally halogenated C_{1-6} alkyl group or an optionally halogenated C_{6-10} aryl-C_{1-4} alkyl group, (ii) a phosphoric acid group optionally mono- or di-substituted with optionally halogenated C_{1-6} alkyl or C_{2-7} alkanoyloxy-C_{1-6} alkyl, (iii) a sulfonic acid group, (iv) a sulfonamide group optionally substituted with an optionally halogenated C_{1-6} alkyl group or an optionally halogenated C_{6-10} aryl-C_{1-4} alkyl group, (v) a hydroxyl group or a sulfhydryl group, which may be optionally substituted with an optionally halogenated C_{1-3} alkyl group, (vi) a carbamoyl group, (vii) a phenyl group optionally substituted with 1 to 5 substituents selected from the group consisting of hydroxyl, chlorine, florine, aminosulfonyl group, amino group optionally substituted with C_{1-3} alkyl group and

optionally bound to the aromatic ring via O or S, (viii) an amino group optionally mono- or di-substituted with an optionally halogenated C_{1-3} alkyl group, (ix) a cyclic amino group optionally substituted with 1 to 3 C_{1-3} alkyl, benzyl, or phenyl, (x) a 5- to 6-membered aromatic heterocyclic group containing 1 to 4 heteroatoms selected from N, O and S and optionally bound to the aromatic ring via O or S, (xi) a halogen atom, (xii) a C_{1-4} alkyl group, a C_{1-4} alkoxy group or a C_{1-4} alkylthio group, each of which may be optionally substituted with a substituent selected from a halogen atom, a C_{1-4} alkoxy group, a C_{1-4} alkylthio group, caroxyl, and phenyl, (xiii) a C_{5-7} cycloalkyl group, and (xiv) optionally halogenated C_{1-7} alkanoyloxy, two of such substituents may be taken together to form C_{3-6} alkylene, C_{3-6} alkyleneoxy, or C_{3-6} alkylenedioxy;

~~an optionally further substituted aromatic ring;~~

R^1 represents a C_{1-6} alkyl group optionally substituted with 1 to 3 hydroxyl groups optionally substituted with C_{2-20} alkanoyl or C_{1-7} alkyl; ~~lower alkyl group optionally substituted with an optionally substituted hydroxyl group;~~

X^{1a} represents a bond or a C_{1-6} alkylene optionally substituted with (i) a carboxyl group optionally esterified with an optionally halogenated C_{1-6} alkyl group or an optionally halogenated C_{6-10} aryl-C_{1-4} alkyl group, (ii) a phosphoric acid group optionally mono- or di-substituted with optionally halogenated C_{1-6} alkyl or C_{2-7} alkanoyloxy-C_{1-6} alkyl, (iii) a sulfonic acid group, (iv) a sulfonamide group optionally substituted with an optionally halogenated C_{1-6} alkyl group or an optionally halogenated C_{6-10} aryl-C_{1-4} alkyl group, (v) a hydroxyl group or a sulfhydryl group, which may be optionally substituted with an optionally halogenated C_{1-3} alkyl group, (vi) a carbamoyl group, (vii) a phenyl group optionally substituted with 1 to 5 substituents selected from the group consisting of hydroxyl, chlorine, florine, aminosulfonyl group, amino group optionally substituted with C_{1-3} alkyl group and optionally bound to the aromatic ring via O or S, (viii) an amino group optionally mono- or di-substituted with an optionally halogenated C_{1-3} alkyl group, (ix) a cyclic amino group optionally substituted with 1 to 3 C_{1-3} alkyl, benzyl, or phenyl, (x) a 5- to 6-membered aromatic heterocyclic group containing 1 to 4 heteroatoms selected from N, O and S and optionally bound to the aromatic ring via O or S, (xi) a halogen atom, (xii) a C_{1-4} alkyl group, a C_{1-4} alkoxy group or a C_{1-4} alkylthio group, each of which may be optionally substituted with a substituent selected from a halogen atom, a C_{1-4} alkoxy group, a C_{1-4} alkylthio group, caroxyl, and phenyl, (xiii) a C_{5-7} cycloalkyl group, and (xiv) optionally halogenated C_{1-7} alkanoyloxy, two of such substituents may be taken together to form C_{3-6}

alkylene, C_{3-6} alkyleneoxy, or C_{3-6} alkylenedioxy; or an oxo group; ~~optionally substituted lower alkylene~~,

X^{1b} represents a bond or a C_{1-6} alkylene optionally substituted with (i) a carboxyl group optionally esterified with an optionally halogenated C_{1-6} alkyl group or an optionally halogenated C_{6-10} aryl-C_{1-4} alkyl group, (ii) a phosphoric acid group optionally mono- or di-substituted with optionally halogenated C_{1-6} alkyl or C_{2-7} alkanoyloxy-C_{1-6} alkyl, (iii) a sulfonic acid group, (iv) a sulfonamide group optionally substituted with an optionally halogenated C_{1-6} alkyl group or an optionally halogenated C_{6-10} aryl-C_{1-4} alkyl group, (v) a hydroxyl group or a sulfhydryl group, which may be optionally substituted with an optionally halogenated C_{1-3} alkyl group, (vi) a carbamoyl group, (vii) a phenyl group optionally substituted with 1 to 5 substituents selected from the group consisting of hydroxyl, chlorine, florine, aminosulfonyl group, amino group optionally substituted with C_{1-3} alkyl group and optionally bound to the aromatic ring via O or S, (viii) an amino group optionally mono- or di-substituted with an optionally halogenated C_{1-3} alkyl group, (ix) a cyclic amino group optionally substituted with 1 to 3 C_{1-3} alkyl, benzyl, or phenyl, (x) a 5- to 6-membered aromatic heterocyclic group containing 1 to 4 heteroatoms selected from N, O and S and optionally bound to the aromatic ring via O or S, (xi) a halogen atom, (xii) a C_{1-4} alkyl group, a C_{1-4} alkoxy group or a C_{1-4} alkylthio group, each of which may be optionally substituted with a substituent selected from a halogen atom, a C_{1-4} alkoxy group, a C_{1-4} alkylthio group, caroxyl, and phenyl, (xiii) a C_{5-7} cycloalkyl group, and (xiv) optionally halogenated C_{1-7} alkanoyloxy, two of such substituents may be taken together to form C_{3-6} alkylene, C_{3-6} alkyleneoxy, or C_{3-6} alkylenedioxy; or an oxo group; ~~optionally substituted lower alkylene~~,

X^2 represents a bond, -O- or -S-,

X^3 represents a bond or a divalent hydrocarbon group selected from the group consisting of (1) a C_{1-7} straight or branched chain alkyl group, (2) a straight or branched chain C_{2-6} alkenyl group, (3) a phenylene group, and (4) a divalent group in which phenylene and alkylene and/or alkenylene are combined; ~~an optionally substituted divalent hydrocarbon group~~, and

Y represents an optionally esterified or amidated carboxyl group selected from the group consisting of a carboxyl group, a C_{2-7} alkoxycarbonyl group, a C_{7-14} aryloxycarbonyl group, a C_{8-12} aralkyloxycarbonyl group, a carbamoyl group, a N-C_{1-6} alkylcarbamoyl group, a N,N-di-C_{1-6} alkylcarbamoyl group, a N-C_{8-12} aralkylcarbamoyl group, a N,N-di-C_{8-12} aralkylcarbamoyl

group, a 1-pyrrolidinylcarbonyl group, a piperidinocarbonyl group, and a morpholinocarbonyl group, or a salt thereof.

2. (Currently amended) The compound according to claim 1, wherein X^{1b} is a bond and Y is an optionally esterified carboxyl group selected from a carboxyl group, a C_{2-7} alkoxycarbonyl group, a C_{7-14} aryloxycarbonyl group, a C_{8-12} aralkyloxycarbonyl group, and a carbamoyl group.

3. (Original) The compound according to claim 1, wherein ring A is a benzene ring substituted with halogen atom(s).

4. (Currently amended) The compound according to claim 1, wherein ring B is a benzene ring substituted with ~~lower~~ C_{1-4} alkoxy group(s).

5. (Currently amended) The compound according to claim 1, wherein ring C is an optionally ~~further~~ substituted monocyclic aromatic heterocyclic ring.

6. (Currently amended) The compound according to claim 1, wherein ring C is an optionally ~~further~~ substituted benzene ring.

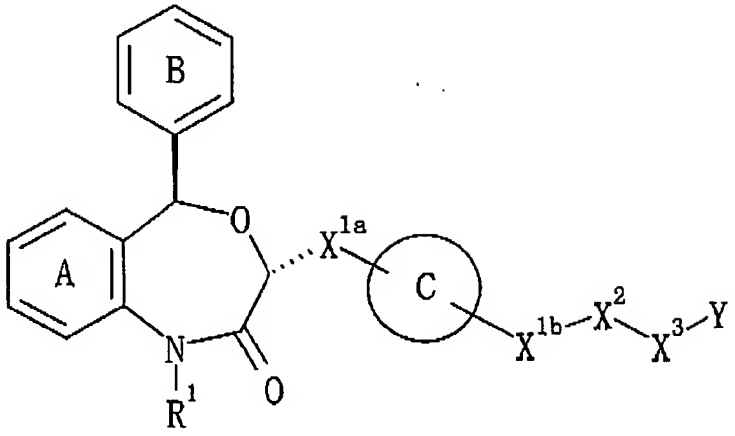
7. (Original) The compound according to claim 1, wherein ring C is an optionally further substituted aromatic ring having no hydrogen atom that may be deprotonated.

8. (Original) The compound according to claim 1, wherein X^{1a} is C_{1-3} alkylene.

9. (Original) The compound according to claim 1, wherein X^2 is a bond.

10. (Original) The compound according to claim 1, wherein X^3 is C_{1-4} alkylene.

11. (Original) The compound according to claim 1, wherein the formula [I] is the formula [Ia]:



wherein respective symbols are as defined in claim 1.

12. (Original) 3-(2-{3-[(3R,5S)-7-chloro-5-(2,3-dimethoxyphenyl)-1-(3-hydroxy-2,2-dimethylpropyl)-2-oxo-1,2,3,5-tetrahydro-4,1-benzoxazepin-3-yl]propyl}-1,3-thiazol-5-yl)propionic acid, 3-(2-{2-[(3R,5S)-7-chloro-5-(2,3-dimethoxyphenyl)-1-(2,2-dimethylpropyl)-2-oxo-1,2,3,5-tetrahydro-4,1-benzoxazepin-3-yl]ethyl}-1,3-thiazol-4-yl)propionic acid, or a salt thereof.

13. (Previously presented) 3-(2-{[(3R,5S)-7-chloro-5-(2,3-dimethoxyphenyl)-1-(3-hydroxy-2,2-dimethylpropyl)-2-oxo-1,2,3,5-tetrahydro-4,1-benzoxazepin-3-yl]methyl}-1,3-oxazol-5-yl)propionic acid, 2-(2-{[(3R,5S)-7-chloro-5-(2,3-dimethoxyphenyl)-1-isobutyl-2-oxo-1,2,3,5-tetrahydro-4,1-benzoxazepin-3-yl]methyl}-1,3-oxazol-5-yl)acetic acid, or a salt thereof.

14. (Original) 5-(3-{[(3R,5S)-7-chloro-5-(2,3-dimethoxyphenyl)-1-(2,2-dimethylpropyl)-2-oxo-1,2,3,5-tetrahydro-4,1-benzoxazepin-3-yl]methyl}-1,2,4-oxadiazol-5-yl)pentanoic acid, 5-(3-{[(3R,5S)-7-chloro-5-(2,3-dimethoxyphenyl)-1-(3-hydroxy-2,2-dimethylpropyl)-2-oxo-1,2,3,5-tetrahydro-4,1-benzoxazepin-3-yl]methyl}-1,2,4-oxadiazol-5-yl)pentanoic acid, 5-(3-{[(3R,5S)-1-(3-acetoxy-2,2-dimethylpropyl)-7-chloro-5-(2,3-dimethoxyphenyl)-2-oxo-1,2,3,5-tetrahydro-4,1-benzoxazepin-3-yl]methyl}-1,2,4-oxadiazol-5-yl)pentanoic acid, or a salt thereof.

15. (Canceled)

16. (Currently amended) A medicine comprising the compound according to claim 1 ~~or a prodrug thereof~~.

17. (Currently amended) A medicine comprising a combination of the compound according to claim 1 ~~or a prodrug thereof~~ and a cholesterol lowering agent.

18. (Original) The medicine according to claim 16 or 17, which is a squalene synthase inhibitor.

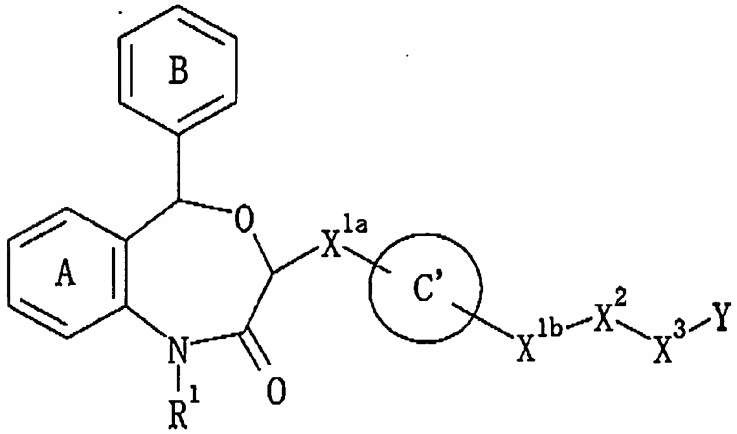
19. (Original) The medicine according to claim 16 or 17, which is a triglyceride lowering agent.

20. (Original) The medicine according to claim 16 or 17, which is a lipid lowering agent.

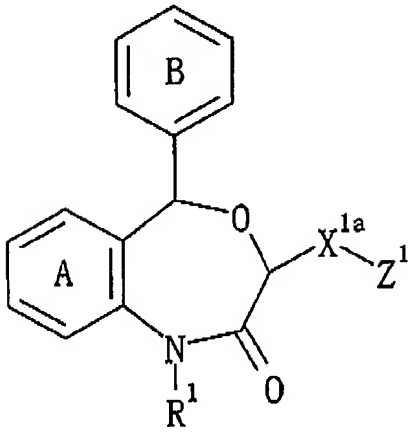
21. (Original) The medicine according to claim 16 or 17, which is an agent for preventing or treating hyperlipemia.

22. (Original) The medicine according to claim 16 or 17, which is a high density lipoprotein-cholesterol level elevating agent.

23. (Currently amended) A process for preparing a compound represented by the formula [I']:



wherein ring C' represents a benzene ring or a 5- to 6-membered monocyclic aromatic ring conprising at least 1 to 3 heteroatoms selected from oxygen, sulfur and nitrogen, wherein the aromatic ring may be substituted with 1 to 4 substituents selected from the group consisting of (i) a carboxyl group optionally esterified with an optionally halogenated C_{1-6} alkyl group or an optionally halogenated C_{6-10} aryl-C_{1-4} alkyl group, (ii) a phosphoric acid group optionally mono- or di-substituted with optionally halogenated C_{1-6} alkyl or C_{2-7} alkanoyloxy-C_{1-6} alkyl, (iii) a sulfonic acid group, (iv) a sulfonamide group optionally substituted with an optionally halogenated C_{1-6} alkyl group or an optionally halogenated C_{6-10} aryl-C_{1-4} alkyl group, (v) a hydroxyl group or a sulfhydryl group, which may be optionally substituted with an optionally halogenated C_{1-3} alkyl group, (vi) a carbamoyl group, (vii) a phenyl group optionally substituted with 1 to 5 substituents selected from the group consisting of hydroxyl, chlorine, florine, aminosulfonyl group, amino group optionally substituted with C_{1-3} alkyl group and optionally bound to the aromatic ring via O or S, (viii) an amino group optionally mono- or di-substituted with an optionally halogenated C_{1-3} alkyl group, (ix) a cyclic amino group optionally substituted with 1 to 3 C_{1-3} alkyl, benzyl, or phenyl, (x) a 5- to 6-membered aromatic heterocyclic group containing 1 to 4 heteroatoms selected from N, O and S and optionally bound to the aromatic ring via O or S, (xi) a halogen atom, (xii) a C_{1-4} alkyl group, a C_{1-4} alkoxy group or a C_{1-4} alkylthio group, each of which may be optionally substituted with a substituent selected from a halogen atom, a C_{1-4} alkoxy group, a C_{1-4} alkylthio group, caroxyl, and phenyl, (xiii) a C_{3-7} cycloalkyl group, and (xiv) optionally halogenated C_{1-7} alkanoyloxy, two of such substituents may be taken together to form C_{3-6} alkylene, C_{3-6} alkyleneoxy, or C_{3-6} alkylenedioxy; ~~an optionally further substituted aromatic heterocyclic ring and other symbols are as defined in claim 1,~~ or a salt thereof, which comprises reacting a compound represented by the formula:



wherein Z^1 represents a functional group involved in an aromatic heterocyclic ring forming reaction;

A and ring B each represent a benzene ring which may have 1 to 3 substituents selected from the group consisting of halogen, a C_{1-4} alkyl group optionally substituted with halogen, a C_{1-4} alkoxy group optionally substituted with halogen, a hydroxyl group, a nitro group, or a cyano group, or the adjacent substituents of said substituents may be taken together to form a ring,

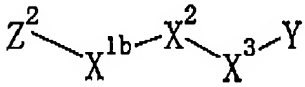
R^1 represents a C_{1-6} alkyl group optionally substituted with 1 to 3 hydroxyl groups optionally substituted with C_{2-20} alkanoyl or C_{1-7} alkyl;

X^{1a} represents a bond or a C_{1-6} alkylene optionally substituted with (i) a carboxyl group optionally esterified with an optionally halogenated C_{1-6} alkyl group or an optionally halogenated C_{6-10} aryl-C_{1-4} alkyl group, (ii) a phosphoric acid group optionally mono- or di-substituted with optionally halogenated C_{1-6} alkyl or C_{2-7} alkanoyloxy-C_{1-6} alkyl, (iii) a sulfonic acid group, (iv) a sulfonamide group optionally substituted with an optionally halogenated C_{1-6} alkyl group or an optionally halogenated C_{6-10} aryl-C_{1-4} alkyl group, (v) a hydroxyl group or a sulfhydryl group, which may be optionally substituted with an optionally halogenated C_{1-3} alkyl group, (vi) a carbamoyl group, (vii) a phenyl group optionally substituted with 1 to 5 substituents selected from the group consisting of hydroxyl, chlorine, florine, aminosulfonyl group, amino group optionally substituted with C_{1-3} alkyl group and optionally bound to the aromatic ring via O or S, (viii) an amino group optionally mono- or di-substituted with an optionally halogenated C_{1-3} alkyl group, (ix) a cyclic amino group optionally substituted with 1 to 3 C_{1-3} alkyl, benzyl, or phenyl, (x) a 5- to 6-membered aromatic heterocyclic group containing 1 to 4 heteroatoms

selected from N, O and S and optionally bound to the aromatic ring via O or S, (xi) a halogen atom, (xii) a C_{1-4} alkyl group, a C_{1-4} alkoxy group or a C_{1-4} alkylthio group, each of which may be optionally substituted with a substituent selected from a halogen atom, a C_{1-4} alkoxy group, a C_{1-4} alkylthio group, caroxyl, and phenyl, (xiii) a C_{5-7} cycloalkyl group, and (xiv) optionally halogenated C_{1-7} alkanoyloxy, two of such substituents may be taken together to form C_{3-6} alkylene, C_{3-6} alkyleneoxy, or C_{3-6} alkylenedioxy; or an oxo group;

~~and other symbols are as defined in claim 1,~~ or a salt thereof,

with a compound represented by the formula:



wherein Z^2 represents a functional group involved in an aromatic heterocyclic ring forming reaction;

X^{1b} represents a bond or a C_{1-6} alkylene optionally substituted with (i) a carboxyl group optionally esterified with an optionally halogenated C_{1-6} alkyl group or an optionally halogenated C_{6-10} aryl-C_{1-4} alkyl group, (ii) a phosphoric acid group optionally mono- or di-substituted with optionally halogenated C_{1-6} alkyl or C_{2-7} alkanoyloxy-C_{1-6} alkyl, (iii) a sulfonic acid group, (iv) a sulfonamide group optionally substituted with an optionally halogenated C_{1-6} alkyl group or an optionally halogenated C_{6-10} aryl-C_{1-4} alkyl group, (v) a hydroxyl group or a sulfhydryl group, which may be optionally substituted with an optionally halogenated C_{1-3} alkyl group, (vi) a carbamoyl group, (vii) a phenyl group optionally substituted with 1 to 5 substituents selected from the group consisting of hydroxyl, chlorine, florine, aminosulfonyl group, amino group optionally substituted with C_{1-3} alkyl group and optionally bound to the aromatic ring via O or S, (viii) an amino group optionally mono- or di-substituted with an optionally halogenated C_{1-3} alkyl group, (ix) a cyclic amino group optionally substituted with 1 to 3 C_{1-3} alkyl, benzyl, or phenyl, (x) a 5- to 6-membered aromatic heterocyclic group containing 1 to 4 heteroatoms selected from N, O and S and optionally bound to the aromatic ring via O or S, (xi) a halogen atom, (xii) a C_{1-4} alkyl group, a C_{1-4} alkoxy group or a C_{1-4} alkylthio group, each of which may be optionally substituted with a substituent selected from a halogen atom, a C_{1-4} alkoxy group, a C_{1-4} alkylthio group, caroxyl, and phenyl, (xiii) a C_{5-7} cycloalkyl group, and (xiv) optionally halogenated C_{1-7} alkanoyloxy, two of such substituents may be taken together to form C_{3-6} alkylene, C_{3-6} alkyleneoxy, or C_{3-6} alkylenedioxy; or an oxo group;

X^2 represents a bond, -O- or -S-,

X^3 represents a bond or a divalent hydrocarbon group selected from the group consisting of (1) a C1-7 straight or branched chain alkyl group, (2) a straight or branched chain C2-6 alkenyl group, (3) a phenylene group, and (4) a divalent group in which phenylene and alkylene and/or alkenylene are combined; and

Y represents an optionally esterified or amidated carboxyl group selected from the group consisting of a carboxyl group, a C_{2-7} alkoxycarbonyl group, a C_{7-14} aryloxycarbonyl group, a C_{8-12} aralkyloxycarbonyl group, a carbamoyl group, a N-C_{1-6} alkylcarbamoyl group, a N,N-di-C_{1-6} alkylcarbamoy group, a N-C_{8-12} aralkylcarbamoyl group, a N,N-di-C_{9-12} aralkylcarbamoy group, a 1-pyrrolidinylcarbonyl group, a piperidinocarbonyl group, and a morpholinocarbonyl group, ~~and other symbols are as defined in claim 1,~~ or a salt thereof.

24. (Currently amended) A method of inhibiting squalene synthase in a mammal, which comprises administering an effective amount of the compound according to claim 1 ~~or a prodrug thereof~~ to said mammal.

25. (Currently amended) A method of lowering triglyceride level in a mammal, which comprises administering an effective amount of the compound according to claim 1 ~~or a prodrug thereof~~ to said mammal.

26. (Currently amended) A method of lowering lipid level in a mammal, which comprises administering an effective amount of the compound according to claim 1 ~~or a prodrug thereof~~ to said mammal.

27. (Currently amended) A method of preventing or treating hyperlipemia in a mammal, which comprises administering an effective amount of the compound according to claim 1 ~~or a prodrug thereof~~ to said mammal.

28. (Currently amended) A method of elevating high density lipoprotein-cholesterol level in a mammal, which comprises administering an effective amount of the compound according to claim 1 ~~or a prodrug thereof~~ to said mammal.

29-33. (Canceled)